

claimed that they were merely raising and possessing birds to sell to legal cockfighting states and countries, when in reality they were often engaging in illegal fights in their own states. It makes enforcement of state laws against cockfighting very difficult.

During consideration earlier in this Congress of the Farm bills, the House and Senate passed identical versions of legislation to close the loopholes in the law. Unfortunately, the conferees removed a provision, identical in both bills, to increase jail time for individuals who violate any provision of Section 26 of the Animal Welfare Act. The House and Senate increased the maximum jail time from one year to two years, seeking to make this illegal animal fighting a federal felony.

U.S. Attorneys have told humane organizations and others that they are reluctant to pursue animal fighting cases with such a modest penalty. They will be far more likely to pursue cases if it is a felony offense.

My legislation today seeks to restore what the House and Senate originally passed in terms of penalties. The adoption of this provision will bring federal law in better alignment with state laws. As I mentioned previously, 46 states have either dogfighting or cockfighting felony provisions. It is fitting and appropriate that the federal government treat dogfighting and cockfighting as felony offenses. It is well known that these forms of animal cruelty are often associated with drug traffic, illegal firearms possession, violence to people, and illegal gambling. In short, other criminal conduct goes hand in hand with animal fighting.

My legislation also bans the interstate shipment of deadly knives and gaffs, which are the implements attached to the birds' legs to heighten the bloodletting and expedite the conclusion of fights. These knives and gaffs are sold through cockfighting magazines and through the Internet, and it is time that this traffic in these deadly implements is halted. A number of states have prohibitions on the sale of these implements, but it is time to adopt a national standard.

Finally, this legislation improves and updates other enforcement language in the Animal Welfare Act, provisions that were adopted more than a quarter century ago, on forfeiture and disposition of animals seized by law enforcement once they make arrests of individuals participating in illegal animal fights.

I thank several colleagues for adding their names as original cosponsors, and hope that the committees of jurisdiction give this legislation proper and prompt attention and action. I hope it can be passed before the 107th Congress completes its work.

#### EGMONT KEY LAND TRANSFER

### HON. DAN MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 26, 2002*

Mr. DAN MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation to convey Egmont Key, which is currently under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to the Florida State Park Service.

Egmont Key is located at the mouth of Tampa Bay within the Congressional Districts of Mr. BILL YOUNG, Mr. JIM DAVIS, and myself, both of which are greatly supportive of my ef-

forts and are also original cosponsors of the bill. Egmont Key's cultural history dates back to 1830's, as a matter of fact the construction of Fort Dade in 1882 was to protect the city of Tampa during the outbreak of the Spanish-American War. Egmont Key even served as a site for the Union navy to operate their Gulf Coast blockade in the Civil War. Area residents, including my family and I, have enjoyed Egmont Key's historical and recreational benefits for years, and the local support for conveying the ownership of this island to the Florida State Park Service is strong.

The bill will convey the title of Egmont Key, a small island, which is approximately 350 acres, to the Florida State Park Service. This bill will not only improve the management of the public facilities, historical remains and wildlife habitat on the island, but also save the federal government money in the long term by removing it from federal responsibility.

Transfer of this property to the State of Florida will prove to be highly beneficial to its visitors. Providing more efficient facilities and an all around atmosphere of family interaction. Egmont Key serves as a habitat for numerous species of birds, and its white sandy beaches are valuable to the lives of many turtles, animals, and plants. The State of Florida's ownership of this picturesque island would improve the quality of life for its inhabitants and the quality of enjoyment for its enthusiasts.

Mr. Speaker, due to the limited amount of time left in the 107th Congress and my pending retirement this year, it is my hope that this bill will move quickly through the legislative process. I strongly believe that Egmont Key is best operated through the ownership of the Florida State Park Service, therefore I am requesting my colleagues join me today in cosponsoring this legislation. Egmont Key is a valuable resource to our area, and ownership by the State of Florida would simply provide the desired access to the community while also maintaining the ecosystem.

#### REMARKS ON SUSAN HIRSCHMAN

### HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 26, 2002*

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, not to bid farewell, but to extend my heartfelt wishes for a future of success and happiness, to Susan Hirschmann.

Susan has served as the Chief of Staff to our Majority Whip, TOM DELAY, since 1997, managing the personal, district and Whip offices for our good friend from Texas.

Many of us have turned to her throughout the years for her political acumen and superb strategic skills.

Since moving to Washington, D.C. in 1987, she has been in the trenches promoting the Republican agenda—America's agenda.

She is more than a colleague. She is a friend.

While she is leaving the Hill, her passion and commitment to priority issues will keep her nearby.

I will surely miss the dinners we shared, as well as the late-night discussions over Chinese food and fried chicken in the Whip's office.

Godspeed Susan!

#### EQUITY IN EDUCATION ACT

### HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 26, 2002*

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, today I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2041, "The Equity in Education Act of 2001."

The rising cost of higher education is one of the major concerns facing American families today. In recent years the cost of college has gone through the roof. Making college affordable is vital to our children, our country's future, and our ability to remain competitive in a global economy.

I introduced the Equity in Education Act to help families save to send their children to college. It would allow individuals to use investments in securities to pay for higher education expenses without being penalized by the tax code.

The Equity in Education Act would provide families with a viable way to secure a good education for their children. By supporting this bill, Congress has the opportunity to ensure that the cost of receiving a higher education does not go beyond the reach of many Americans.

I encourage my colleagues to cosponsor H.R. 2041.

#### AN ACCURATE HISTORY OF CYPRUS

### HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 26, 2002*

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, recently several Members of Congress came to the House floor to attack Turkey and enumerate all the bad things that have happened to Cyprus as a result of the 1974 Turkish intervention on Cyprus. As has happened in the past, only one-sided, inaccurate, and incomplete information was provided, which not only ignored the historical reasons for the division of Cyprus, but also ignored the international laws that legitimized the Turkish intervention. For the sake of historical accuracy, I would like to insert in the RECORD an article authored by the Honorable Osman Ertug, the Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus here in Washington, DC. I commend it to anyone who has a sincere desire to understand why Cyprus stands divided today.

#### IS IT ALL HISTORY?

The month of July is marked by mourning and protestations in Cyprus on the one side, while by jubiliations and celebrations on the other. Even this sharp contrast in public mood shows the depth of the division between the two peoples of this eastern Mediterranean island—the Turkish Cypriots and Greek Cypriots. We believe the 28th Anniversary of the events of 1974 in Cyprus is an appropriate time to reflect on the background of the conflict and the prospects for its peaceful resolution.

Contrary to common belief, the origin of the Cyprus conflict dates back not to 1974, but to December 1963, when the Greek Cypriots, aided and abetted by Greece, launched an all-out attack on the Turkish Cypriot